

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 DRC-01

AID-20 EB-11 COME-00 /113 W

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R 311522Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY LIMA

TO USIA WASHDC

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 1207

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USIAC

EO 11652 N/A

SUBJ: PERUVIAN NEWSPAPER EXPROPRIATION

REF: LIMA 6163; LIMA 6182

1. WEEKEND ACTION BY GOP EXPROPRIATING EIGHT DAILY LIMA NEWSPAPERS AND TURNING THEM OVER TO ECONOMIC SECTORS UNDER TEMPORARILY APPOINTED DIRECTORS WILL REQUIRE USIS LIMA TO REVISE PRIMARY AUDIENCE CONTACTS AND EVENTUALLY TO ADJUST PLACEMENT EFFORTS TO TAKE NEW "SECTORIZED" PRESS INTO ACCOUNT. ONE MEMBER COMMITTEE THAT DRAFTED NEW DECREE HAS TOLD US NEW SYSTEM WILL NOT AFFECT PRESS RELATIONS WITH USIS. HE SAID, "WE'LL BE ABLE TO COOPERATE EVEN BETTER." NEWSPAPERS STILL SEEM TO BE ADAPTING TO NEW SITUATION, AND POST HAS NO STRONG INDICATION HOW NEW DECREE TO AFFECT WORKING RELATIONS WITH PRESS.

2. FIELD MESSAGE FOLLOWS GIVING MORE DETAIL ABOUT NEW PRESS DECREES. BRIEFLY, DECREES PROHIBIT "NATIONAL" NEWSPAPER OWNERSHIP BY PRIVATE INDIVIDUALS, BUT ALLOWS DAILIES UNDER 20,000 CIRCULATION TO BE INDIVIDUALLY OWNED. ALL OTHERS MUST BE TURNED OVER TO "ECONOMIC SECTORS" DESIGNATED BY THE GOVERNMENT. DECREE
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EMPHASIZES NEWSPAPERS " NOT TURNED OVER TO STATE" BUT TO ECONOMIC

GROUPS.

3. FIRST THREE EDITIONS OF DAILIES HEAVILY PROMOTE "REVOLUTIONARY" GOVERNMENT LINE. HOWEVER, MOST ARE PUBLISHING NEWS WIRE REPORTS OF NEGATIVE REACTION ABROAD TO EXPROPRIATION MEASURE.

4. GOP ACTION HAS FORCED OUT ALL FORMER DIRECTORS AND SUB-DIRECTORS, INCLUDING THOSE OF PRO-GOVERNMENT, LEFTIST EXPRESO, AND GOVERNMENT-OWNED LA NUEVA CRONICA. LA CRONICA DIRECTOR, ONLY ONE REMAINING UNDER NEW SET-UP, NAMED TO HEAD POPULAR OJO. (EMBASSY CABLE 6163 HAS LISTING NEW DIRECTORS).

5. BULK OF LOWER ECHELON NEWSMEN STAYING ON MOST STAFFS, BUT THERE HAVE BEEN SOME PURGES OF EDITORIAL WRITERS AND OPINION COLUMNISTS, INCLUDING EL COMERCIO'S CHIEF POLITICAL WRITER ALFONSO BAELEA TUESTA AND LA PRENSA'S TOP EDITOR-COLUMNIST ARTURO SALAZAR LARRAIN, WHO ALSO HEADS MODERATE FACTION OF PERUVIAN JOURNALISTS FEDERATION. NEWSPAPERS NOW IGNORING MODERATE FEDERATION FACTION AND RECOGNIZING PRO-GOVERNMENT, LEFTIST FACTION HEADED BY ENRIQUE RINCON LATINEZ, EL COMERCIO PROOF-READER. OTHER TOP EDITORIAL WRITERS LEAVING ARE OSCAR DIAZ BRAVO, LA PRENSA MANAGING EDITOR; AND JORGE CASTRO DE LOS RIOS, PRINCIPAL FEATURE WRITER AND EDITORIAL ASSISTANT.
GALLAGHER

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